

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

Scripture Meditations.

"And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it." (Num. xi. 9.)

Without the dew of the Holy Spirit's influence, all is dry and sterile in the Church of God, as well as in the heart of the believer; but when He sweetly falls upon the camp, or unto the soul, what a reviving takes place! Then does Christ, the true Manna, become the food which nourishes and sustains through the wilderness journey. How apt are the illustrations of the Divine word! the dew must first fall, then the manna appears; for, except the Holy Spirit prepares the way, Christ cannot be received, nor fed upon by faith; the heart must first be softened by grace ere the preciousness of a dying and a risen Saviour can be understood and apprehended; so can there be no after-manifestation of Christ's love to the heart, unless it be first mellowed in and softened by the sweet influences of the Spirit, just as warm sunshine succeeds the fructifying shower.

But it is said the dew fell upon the camp in the night. What a beautiful emblem is here! When it is night in the soul, when all is dead and dark within, when the beasts of the forest creep forth, and all the noisome reptiles which sin and Satan can produce make their appearance, so that the poor harassed one cries out, "Surely I am more brutish than any man;" then, at the very worst, in the darkest part of the night, the dew falls, the Holy Spirit descends "as small rain upon the tender herb," and reveals an all-sufficient Saviour for the very vilest sinner; proving Him to be the choicest Manna, which alone can satisfy the spiritual appetite, bringing life, health and vigor to the recipient thereof.—*Episcopalian.*

The Cross of Christ.

No Church will ever be honored in which Christ crucified is not continually lifted up. Nothing whatever can make up for the want of the cross. Without it all things may be done decently and in order. Without it there may be splendid ceremonies, beautiful music, gorgeous churches, learned ministers, crowded communion tables, huge collections for the poor. But without the cross no good will be done. Dark hearts will not be enlightened. Pround hearts will not be humbled. Mourning hearts will not be comforted. Faunting hearts will not be cheered. Sermons about the Catholic Church and an apostolic ministry—sermons about baptism and the Lord's Supper—sermons about unity and schism—sermons about fasts and communion—sermons about fathers and saints—such sermons will never make up for the absence of sermons about the cross of Christ. They may amuse some. They will feed none. A gorgeous banqueting room, and splendid gold plate upon the table, will never rankle up to a hungry man for the want of food. Christ crucified is God's grand ordinance for doing good for men. Whenever a Church keeps back Christ crucified, or puts anything whatever in that foremost place which Christ crucified should have, from that moment a Church ceases to be useful. Without Christ crucified in her pulpits, a Church is little better than a number of the ground, a dead carcass, a well without water, a barren tree, a sleeping watchman, a silent trumpet, a dumb witness, an ambassador without terms of peace, messenger without tidings, a light-house without fire, a stumbling-block to weak believers, a comfort to infidels, a hot-bed for formalism, a joy to the devil, and an offense to God.—*Episcopalian.*

Summer Work of the Church.

The Church Union replies to the *Independent* as follows:—

"Many Sabbath Schools are suspended. Thank God that they are! For the dear little children who compose them have meanwhile been happily removed from the city's baked pavements to the country's green fields."

Not a fact. Rarely half the children of any Sabbath School in the city are even in the country at once. The rest are left here to "make," neglected; perchance to burn.

"Nothing is added to the yearly sum total of vitality and efficiency in a church or Sunday School by keeping a regular service running at a 'poor dying rate' during the sweltering heats of July and August."

Not on the commercial principle that runs our churches. It takes vitality to keep up the ministrations of a church through the summer, and another sort than ecclesiastical engineers dream of.

"Day schools are always closed during a portion of the summer; the sun is just as merciless to Sunday School as to day school scholars; and, if the one class needs a vacation, the other needs it just as much."

"The legs of the lame are not equal; so is a parable in the mouth of a special pleader. An hour of cheerful religious exercises once a week is a terrible strain, forsore! very much like confinement to hard study throughout the week, not to be kept up without peril. Surely when school study is laid aside for the summer, the juvenile constitution might bear the singing of two or three hymns, the reading of a few verses in the Bible, and a few minutes of religious conversation, once a week. Fang! it is the laziness of the teachers that invents these lame excuses. The children love the Sabbath-school better."

That last Scripture has been quoted before, and rather more correctly, if we remember. We fear the care of souls would be left to the Lord God all the year round, if some people had their way. Why not in January as much as in August? Have we any care of souls to answer for?

SUMMARY OF RELIGIOUS NEWS.

METHODIST.

We are pleased to note the recognition of Methodist authorship by the scholars of Europe. In recent numbers of *Le Docteur*, a quarterly published by the French Theological Seminary, an article by Rev. Dr. W. H. Warren, noting President of the Boston Theological Seminary, in which he submits to the theologians of Europe a new and entirely original classification of the theological sciences, based upon a strictly logical analysis of the subject matter of Christian Theology. This is the second time, we believe, that a contribution of American Methodist authorship has been accepted and published in the highest literary organs of Germany, France, and England.

On New England Tiology, an article on "The Rev. John McLeod, of Newport, Nova Scotia, has been called by the United Presbyterian Church of East Boston in the Boston Presbytery, to become its pastor. It is not known yet whether he will accept."

The *Irish Evangelist* announces the opening of the Methodist College, Belfast, August 19th, and says that "the name of the Rev. Mr. McClintock will occupy a prominent place in the programme, and will command an interest second only to that of the distinguished Principal, whose inaugural address will constitute the great attraction of the opening services." Dr. Johnson is spending a brief holiday in St. Louis, the New Braunfels.

The Rev. James Lynch, Presiding Elder of the Jackson District, Mississippi Conference, writes that eleven of the thirteen charges in his district have added to their membership from nineteen to two hundred members each, and the increase in Mississippi since December must first fall, then the manna appears; for, except the Holy Spirit prepares the way, Christ cannot be received, nor fed upon by faith; the heart must first be softened by grace ere the preciousness of a dying and a risen Saviour can be understood and apprehended; so can there be no after-manifestation of Christ's love to the heart, unless it be first mellowed in and softened by the sweet influences of the Spirit, just as warm sunshine succeeds the fructifying shower.

—In the August number of the *Reformed Monthly*, published in this city, we find a long and very elaborate and able article by Dr. Dorner, the celebrated Professor of Theology in the University of Berlin, entitled "The Theological Conflict in the Reformed Church of North America, with Special Reference to Fundamental Evangelical Doctrines." Dr. Dorner reviews the past history of the church, by itself and with others, and criticizes the Liturgy, which has lately been introduced into the German Reformed Church in America. Dr. Nevin has replied to Dr. Dorner in the last number of the *Mercurius Reformer.*

The Rev. J. H. Klein, recently of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has accepted the Professorship in the Sueboog Mission Institute, Wisconsin, to which he was recently elected by the Northwestern Synod.

The congregation of the Reformed church, Pittsburg, Pa., has increased so much under the efficient charge of the Rev. J. Paschal Strong, that a second Reformed church is proposed in the village.

EPISCOPAL.

A meeting was held at the rooms of the S. P. G., in London, on July 29, in aid of the Bishop of Capetown, and of the speedy consecration of Mr. Macrorie. On motion of Archdeacon Denison, a home association was formed, with Earl Nelson as chairman, to raise funds for the support of the new bishop, and also for the maintenance of Capetown. It was resolved that the Colonial Secretary had offered to issue a mandate for the consecration of Mr. Macrorie two months ago, in order to relieve Bishop Gray and others from the penalties of *procuratio*. The Archbishop of Canterbury, who is now on the Continent, had been applied to to commission two of his suffragans to join with the Bishop of Capetown in consecrating Mr. Macrorie if the ceremony could be legally performed in England. Bishop Gray announced at the meeting that he proposed to leave for South Africa on September 5.

Having drawn the people to a show, the Bumblies cannot keep the crowd when the show is over. At Trinity Church, New York, as soon as the hymn is given out preparatory to the sermon, the crowd begin to disperse amid great confusion, thinning the house out to such an extent as to show what the mass came for. At St. Albans' men are posted at the door to keep people in. Notices are hung up all around forbidding people from disturbing the congregation by going out. All effort is useless. People crowd up on the stairs, and stand on top, to be found in the Stateroom when the novel performances close, and the sermon comes on, out the curious rush.—*Presbyterian.*

The *John Bull* of August 1st says, that the last act of the Archbishop of Canterbury, before setting out for the Convent, was to write to the Queen's Advocate, his Vicar-General, expressing his desire that arrangements might be made for the consecration of a new bishop for Kent in England.

The Rev. R. W. Oliver is appointed Dean of the Diocese of Nebraska—of the Nebraska Protestant Episcopal Institution at Nebraska City, Nebraska.

It is stated that Bishop Tuttle has formally declined the Episcopacy of Missouri, and that the choice of a Bishop will not be made until after the session of the General Convention,

PRESBYTERIAN.

The question is being discussed whether the Church of Scotland is not, like that of England, a church of the Established religion of the people. A writer goes over all the available statistics—priest, minister, education and worship—and concludes that the worshippers outside of the establishment are double those within it. Extending the analysis, and comparing the Establishment of Scotland, not with the whole body of Protestant worshippers, but with single denominations, it appears that in the fifty-three cities, towns, and burghs of Scotland, the Free Churchers are twice as many as the Presbyterians, and the Established only in eleven. In regard to the counties again (thirteen in number), it is found that the Establishment has the majority in fourteen (in four of them the predominance is very small). The Free Church predominates in twelve, and the United Presbyterian Church in seven.

The largest accessions on examination reported in the last minutes of the New School Presbyterian Church are—Kensington church, the Rev. Dr. C. L. C. Moore, pastor; 88; Eastern Missionary, Lebanon, Ill.; (Garrison Church); So. Fourth Avenue church, New York, 77; Spring Street church, New York, 72; Thirteenth Street church, New York, 71; Madison Square church, New York, 68; Ridgebury, New York, 66; Trenton, Illinois (German church), 65; Eleventh church, New York, 65; First church, Brooklyn, 64; Tabernacle church, this city, 62; Port Jervis, New York, 59; Lyons, 57; Third church, this city, 54; Brockport, New York, 55; Delphi, Indiana, 54; Belvidere Second, New Jersey, 53; Victor, New York, 51. This makes an aggregate of 1432 accessions to 18 churches.

The Second Presbyterian Church of New Albany, Indiana, having been thoroughly repainted and painted, upholstered, and completed in a most beautiful and substantial manner, was reopened for regular Sabbath services on the morning of the 9th instant, when the attendance was very large.

The Rev. John McLeod, of Newport, Nova Scotia, has been called by the United Presbyterian Church of East Boston in the Boston Presbytery, to become its pastor. It is not known yet whether he will accept.

LUTHERAN.

The Rev. Dr. Valentine has yielded to the renewed unanimous request of the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and formally accepts the Presidency of the College. This creates a vacancy in the Seminary Faculty, which will probably be filled by the election of another Professor of the History of Religion, and the Director to be called in to succeed him. In consequence of the general neglect of the late Mr. Davis Pierson, the Board determined to establish a new Professorship, to be known as the "Pierson Professorship of the Greek Language and Literature," and Rev. H. L. Baugher of Indianapolis, Indiana, unanimously elected as the incumbent.

A few weeks ago, at a meeting of the Wisconsin Synod, which forms an integral part of the General Council, and fully sympathized with Ohio and Iowa, at Fort Wayne, although not in the habit of withdrawing from the Council, formally and solemnly declared in favor of the cause of the Synod.

"Who has the case of souls in the summer time?" The Lord said. "His own eye watches them; and His own hand feeds them—both in summer and in winter. He crowns the year with His goodness." He sends His angels to keep guard concerning us, lest we dash our feet against a stone."

That last Scripture has been quoted before, and rather more correctly, if we remember. We fear the care of souls would be left to the Lord God all the year round, if some people had their way. Why not in January as much as in August? Have we any care of souls to answer for?

BAPTIST.

The Virginia Baptist State Convention of colored Baptist churches, held its first anniversary at Norfolk, May 13th, 14th, and 15th. The record of the churches shows a total of fourteen churches, with a membership of 11,345. The churches belonging to B. are Portsmouth, Petersburg, Norfolk, Lumburg, Mount Zion, First Richmond, Hampton, City Point, and Cold Spring. Resolutions were passed recommending the American Baptist, also the National Baptist, and the Foreign Mission Society. Special attention was given to the colored people in favor of close communion and non-excommunication, as in accordance with the doctrine and practice of the Lutheran Church. In consequence of this action, two of its ministers withdrew from its Synod.

—The Rev. Dr. Valentine has yielded to the renewed unanimous request of the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and formally accepts the Presidency of the College. This creates a vacancy in the Seminary Faculty, which will probably be filled by the election of another Professor of the History of Religion, and the Director to be called in to succeed him. In consequence of the general neglect of the late Mr. Davis Pierson, the Board determined to establish a new Professorship, to be known as the "Pierson Professorship of the Greek Language and Literature," and Rev. H. L. Baugher of Indianapolis, Indiana, unanimously elected as the incumbent.

A few weeks ago, at a meeting of the Wisconsin Synod, which forms an integral part of the General Council, and fully sympathized with Ohio and Iowa, at Fort Wayne, although not in the habit of withdrawing from the Council, formally and solemnly declared in favor of the cause of the Synod.

"Who has the case of souls in the summer time?" The Lord said. "His own eye watches them; and His own hand feeds them—both in summer and in winter. He crowns the year with His goodness." He sends His angels to keep guard concerning us, lest we dash our feet against a stone."

In 1857, the Baptists in St. Louis, Missouri, numbered four white and three colored churches. They now have six white and six colored churches, and are rapidly increasing in number and influence. They are united, and work harmoniously together.

Mr. George W. Whittemore, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is to be Professor of Hebrew in the Rochester Theological Seminary. Mr. Whittemore is a graduate of Harvard College and of the New Haven Theological Institution.

A Baptist Missionary Union has been formed in Liberia by a convention representing ten

churches, "for the evangelization of the heathen within the borders of the republic, and contiguous thereto."

The Rev. W. H. Williams, of Virginia, has accepted the charge of the First Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

REFORMED.

In the August number of the *Reformed Monthly*, published in this city, we find a long and very elaborate and able article by Dr. Dorner, the celebrated Professor of Theology in the University of Berlin, entitled "The Theological Conflict in the Reformed Church of North America, with Special Reference to Fundamental Evangelical Doctrines." Dr. Dorner reviews the past history of the church, by itself and with others, and criticizes the Liturgy, which has lately been introduced into the German Reformed Church in America. Dr. Nevin has replied to Dr. Dorner in the last number of the *Mercurius Reformer.*

The Rev. James Lynch, Presiding Elder of the Jackson District, Mississippi Conference, writes that eleven of the thirteen charges in his district have added to their membership from nineteen to two hundred members each, and the increase in Mississippi since December must first fall, then the manna appears; for, except the Holy Spirit prepares the way, Christ cannot be received, nor fed upon by faith; the heart must first be softened by grace ere the preciousness of a dying and a risen Saviour can be understood and apprehended; so can there be no after-manifestation of Christ's love to the heart, unless it be first mellowed in and softened by the sweet influences of the Spirit, just as warm sunshine succeeds the fructifying shower.

The Rev. Dr. Nevin is spending a brief holiday in St. Louis, the New Braunfels.

The *Zion Herald* says that a man by the name of Tournier has purchased the land surrounding the colored Methodist church in Springfield, Mass., and has surrounded the church with a black fence as high as the eaves.

Bishop Paine, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, whose health has been very feeble for some time past, is now recovering.

REFORMED.

A meeting was held at the rooms of the S. P. G., in London, on July 29, in aid of the Bishop of Capetown, and of the speedy consecration of Mr. Macrorie.

On motion of Archdeacon Denison, a home association was formed, with Earl Nelson as chairman, to raise funds for the support of the new bishop, and also for the maintenance of Capetown. It was resolved that the Colonial Secretary had offered to issue a mandate for the consecration of Mr. Macrorie two months ago, in order to relieve Bishop Gray and others from the penalties of *procuratio*.

The *John Bull* of August 1st says, that the last act of the Archbishop of Canterbury, before setting out for the Convent, was to write to the Queen's Advocate, his Vicar-General, expressing his desire that arrangements might be made for the consecration of a new bishop for Kent in England.

The Rev. J. H. Klein, recently of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has accepted the Professorship in the Sueboog Mission Institute, Wisconsin, to which he was recently elected by the Northwestern Synod.

The congregation of the Reformed church, Pittsburg, Pa., has increased so much under the efficient charge of the Rev. J. Paschal Strong, that a second Reformed church is proposed in the village.

REFORMED.

A meeting was held at the rooms of the S. P. G., in London, on July 29, in aid of the Bishop of Capetown, and of the speedy consecration of Mr. Macrorie.

On motion of Archdeacon Denison, a home association was formed, with Earl Nelson as chairman, to raise funds for the support of the new bishop, and also for the maintenance of Capetown. It was resolved that the Colonial Secretary had offered to issue a mandate for the consecration of Mr. Macrorie two months ago, in order to relieve Bishop Gray and others from the penalties of *procuratio*.

The *John Bull* of August 1st says, that the last act of the Archbishop of Canterbury, before setting out for the Convent, was to write to the Queen's Advocate, his Vicar-General, expressing his desire that arrangements might be made for the consecration of a new bishop for Kent in England.

The Rev. J. H. Klein, recently of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has accepted the Professorship in the Sueboog Mission Institute, Wisconsin, to which he was recently elected by the Northwestern Synod.

The congregation of the Reformed church, Pittsburg, Pa., has increased so much under the efficient charge of the Rev. J. Paschal Strong, that a second Reformed church is proposed in the village.

REFORMED.

A meeting was held at the rooms of the S. P. G., in London, on July 29, in aid of the Bishop of Capetown, and of the speedy consecration of Mr. Macrorie.

On motion of Archdeacon Denison, a home association was formed, with Earl Nelson as chairman, to raise funds for the support of the new bishop, and also for the maintenance of Capetown. It was resolved that the Colonial Secretary had offered to issue a mandate for the consecration of Mr. Macrorie two months ago, in order to relieve Bishop Gray and others from the penalties of *procuratio*.

The *John Bull* of August 1st says, that the last act of the Archbishop of Canterbury, before setting out for the Convent, was to write to the Queen's Advocate, his Vicar-General, expressing his desire that arrangements might be made for the consecration of a new bishop for Kent in England.

The Rev. J. H. Klein, recently of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has accepted the Professorship in the Sueboog Mission Institute, Wisconsin, to which he was recently elected by the Northwestern Synod.

The congregation of the Reformed church, Pittsburg, Pa., has increased so much under the efficient charge of the Rev. J. Paschal Strong, that a second Reformed church is proposed in the village.

REFORMED.

A meeting was held at the rooms of the S. P. G., in London, on July 29, in aid of the Bishop of Capetown, and of the speedy consecration of Mr. Macrorie.

On motion of Archdeacon Denison, a home association was formed, with Earl Nelson as chairman, to raise funds for the support of the new bishop, and also for the maintenance of Capetown. It was resolved that the Colonial Secretary had offered to issue a mandate for the consecration of Mr. Macrorie two months ago, in order to relieve Bishop Gray and others from the penalties of *procuratio*.